REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing prior to the initial office action on the merits is respectfully requested. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, attached as Appendix A is a version with markings to show changes made to the claims. By the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28 have been amended, so that claims 1-28 remain pending.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 13, 2002

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APPENDIX A

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In reference to the amendments made herein to claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28 additions appear as underlined text, while deletions appear as bracketed text, as indicated below:

In The Claims:

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any one of Claims 2 to 4] Claim 2, wherein during air-laying the fibres are dispersed in a moving air stream to form an air/fibre mixture.

6. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the fibres comprise a blend of fibres of two or more types of fibre.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 7 [or Claim 8], wherein the blend further comprises a modacrylic copolymer comprising from 35 to 85 weight percent acrylonitrile units and having the balance made up substantially of other addition polymer-forming units, being halogenated hydrocarbon such as vinyl chloride or vinylidene chloride.

10. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any one of Claims 7 to 9] Claim 7, wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is in the range 70:30 to 30:70.

12. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any one of Claims 7 to 11] Claim 7, wherein the linear density of the fibres in component (a) and component (b) is in the range 0.1 to 10dtex.

14. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the fibres have a diameter of 12μm or less.

17. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in Claim 15 [or Claim 16], wherein the web comprises a blend of fibres of two or more types of fibre.

20. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in Claim 18 [or Claim 19], wherein the blend further comprises a modacrylic copolymer comprising from 35 to 85 weight percent acrylonitrile units and having the balance made up substantially of other addition polymer-forming units, being halogenated hydrocarbon such as vinyl chloride or vinylidene chloride.

21. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in [any one of Claims 18 to 20] Claim 18, wherein in the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is in the range 70:30 to 30:70.

23. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in [any one of Claims 18 to 22] Claim 18, wherein the linear density of the fibres in component (a) and component (b) is in the range 0.1 to 10dtex.

25. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in [any one of Claims 15 to 24] Claim 15, wherein the fibres have a diameter of 12μm or less.

26. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in [any one of Claims 15 to 25] Claim 15, which has a weight of from 200g/m^2 to 1000g/m^2.

28. (Amended) A filtration medium as claimed in [any one of Claims 15 to 27] Claim 15, which comprises a blend of fibres selected from the group consisting of

a) Polyvinylchloride / Polypropylene;

b) Polyvinylchloride / Modacrylic / Polypropylene;

c) Polyvinylchloride / Polypropylene / Polyethylene; and

d) Polyvinylchloride / Modacrylic / Polyethylene.